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DE RUEHMO #0276 0391526
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6177
INFO RUEHLN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG PRIORITY 5607
RUEHVK/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK PRIORITY 3477
RUEHYG/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG PRIORITY 3820
RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS MOSCOW 000276

STATE FOR EUR/RUS AND OES/S NANCY CARTER-FOSTER

SIPDIS
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: DISTRACTED DRIVING DEMARCHE: RUSSIAN REGULATION AND INTERIM RESPONSE

REF: STATE 6703

1. On January 26, Post delivered reftel demarche to the Russian Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Health and Social Development. As of February 8, post has received no substantive response. The Ministry of Transportation told us that of the three ministries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is most likely to be able to provide relevant information. We also provided the demarche to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is studying the request for information. Officials from the Ministry of Health and Social Development provided no substantive response. (NOTE: The Ministry of Health and Social Development deals only with the public health aspects of road safety; we do not expect that it will respond. END NOTE.) Post will report any substantive response it receives.

2. Russian Government Decree number 67 (dated January 24, 2001 and entered into force on April 1, 2001) amends an earlier regulation on road safety by introducing the following language: "Drivers in motion are prohibited... from using a telephone not equipped with a technical apparatus allowing for hands-free use."

BEYRL